

News from Ed Markey

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MARKEY HAILS Do-Not-Call TELEMARKETING PLAN **FTC Action Will Help Consumers Thwart Unwanted Telephone Solicitations**

WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Representative Edward J. Markey (D-MA), Ranking Democrat on the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, today hailed the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) decision to implement a national 'do-not-call' database to assist consumers in stopping unsolicited telemarketing calls at home.

"Today's decision by the Federal Trade Commission is a giant step forward for consumers who are often plagued by unwanted, intrusive unsolicited telemarketing," Representative Markey said. "FTC Chairman Timothy Muris deserves tremendous credit for advancing the implementation of a national 'do-not-call' database, which will provide consumers with a powerful new tool with which to combat unsolicited telemarketing."

"Knowing that you'll soon be able to put your home phone or cell phone on a do-not-call list is one of the best holiday gifts the government could announce this year," Mr. Markey said. "FTC Chairman Muris has given consumers a long wished-for 'stocking stuffer' - and hopefully by this time next year the only thing consumers will hear ringing during supper will be sleigh bells or jingle bells - and not the jangling phone."

"I applaud FTC Chairman Muris and his fellow Commissioners for approving today's historic pro-consumer action. I have long believed that technological advances should be put to use to protect consumers and allow them to put a "no soliciting" sign on their home phone or cell phone," Mr. Markey added, "just as technology has made it easier and more cost-effective for commercial telemarketers to reach consumers anytime, anywhere."

Representative Markey authored successful legislation in 1991 that authorized the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to implement a national do-not-call database (47 U.S.C. 227). The FCC, however, chose not to proceed with such a plan and instead established company-by-company do-not-call rules, which have proven ineffective. "Now that the FTC has taken this important step, I urge the FCC to follow suit and harmonize its rules in a manner that reflects the leadership that the FTC has provided on these issues." Rep. Markey said.